

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SOFIA 01142 301025Z

53

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SS-15 PA-03 PRS-01 USIA-15 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 RSR-01 /072 W

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R 300950Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6940

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SOFIA 1142

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: BULGARIAN AMBASSADOR TO RETIRE

1. VELCHEV, DCM BULGARIAN EMBASSY WASHINGTON CURRENTLY VACATIONING IN BULGARIA, INFORMED ME AUGUST 29 THAT AMBASSADOR ZDRACHEV WILL BE LEAVING WASHINGTON EARLY IN OCTOBER ON RETIREMENT. SEEMS AMBASSADOR HAS BEEN CAUGHT IN NEW FONMIN REGULATION WHICH REQUIRES THAT ALL EMPLOYEES AGE 60 OR OVER RETIRE FROM DIPLOMATIC SERVICE REGARDLESS OF RANK. VELCHEV EXPLAINED FONMIN HAD TOO MANY OLDER OFFICERS WHO "WERE NOT DOING A GOOD JOB" IN HIGH RANKING JOBS THEREFORE RETIREMENT REQUIREMENT SET. HE SAID AMBASSADOR DID NOT FALL IN THIS CATEGORY BUT WAS VICTIM OF NEW REGULATION.

2. THERE HAVE BEEN CONSISTENT RUMORS AND SOME EVIDENCE THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTRY HAS BEEN STRENGTHENED AND THE RETIREMENT OF MANY "OLD PARTY HACKS" WHO WERE REWARDED WITH DIPLOMATIC JOBS LENDS SOME CREDENCE TO STRONGER ROLE FOR FOREIGN MINISTRY.

3. WHEN ASKED TO SPECULATE ON POSSIBLE REPLACEMENT FOR ZDRACHEV, VELCHEV SAID HIS PERSONAL CHOICE WAS LUKANOV.
BATJER

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Message Attributes

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Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
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Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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